



UN

Volunteers

inspiration in action

August — September 2014 NEWSLETTER

UNDP /UNV Kenya Supports Kenyan Government to draft National Volunteer Policy

VOLUNTEERING FOR CHANGE



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The National Volunteer policy in Kenya continues to attract attention and support from private sector, government ,non governmental organizations in the country.

Following the support from UNDP Kenya to develop a draft policy document by committing 20,000 US Dollars a consultancy firm was engaged to bring forth a draft document. The draft document has since pulled the atten-

tion of the government through the Ministry of Labor and Social services. The government is currently working closely with UNDP Kenya ,UN Volunteers and the VIO community to ratify the document through consultative workshops throughout the country and later validation workshops .

In August this year the UNV Kenya office supported a breakfast meeting **see page two**

Above photo @ UNDP Kenya Country Director, Ms. Maria Threase Keating shares a light moment with the Principal secretary Ministry of Labor Mr. Ali Noor Ismael.



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to chat a way forward for the subsequent funding and process to have a final draft policy document to be adopted by the government.

The meeting was Graced by UNDP Kenya Country Director, Ms. Maria-Threase Keating , Principal Secretary ,Ministry of Labor Mr. Ali Noor Ismail , Dr. Manu Chandaria, VSO Country Director– Mr. Ben Ngutu, the Vice Chancellor University of Nairobi, members from the VIO community and members of the press who aired the meeting proceedings on national television stations.

On this day the national steering committee on the development of the volunteer policy was officially launched and a road map towards having the policy by mid 2015. While speaking during the meeting the speakers emphasized on



Above photo @ Dmitry have a brief session with the Chair of VIO Network in Kenya ,Mr. Meshak Odede and Mr. Vincent Rapando in tie from the Global Peace Foundation.

the need for serious partnership to support the development of the volunteer policy.

Volunteering for Cross boarder Peace Development in Migori county



"Let us take this opportunity to have a one minute silence in memory of our lost brothers and sisters during the 2013 West-gate attack in Nairobi."

UNV Peace Monitor –Migori .Mr. Castro Baraza



Above photo @ Youth join the peace procession in Migori. Below Photo left photo @ Mr. Baraza UNV Peace monitor in Migori on the far right follow the county commissioners speech

The International day of peace was marked at the Migori county headquarters on 21st September 2014.

Peace ambassadors held a road show where teenagers and university students walked from Sotik to Migori to advocate for peace. The peace stakeholders led the peace procession which was flagged off by

Migori Deputy County Commissioner .

Migori county is one of the largely cosmopolitan areas of Kenya with a large population of unemployed youth who could be a real threat to security. The county peace monitor is currently establishing peace clubs in schools to promote cohesion.

Beyond UN Volunteering– by Emmanuel Ngore –UNV at UNEP



Volunteering for Young Professionals for Agricultural Development (YPAD)

Lack of unemployment, gender inequality and discrimination, high school dropout rates, high costs of living, drugs and increasing crime rates are among the major crosscutting concerns that affect young people across Africa. Defining young people's significance however remains just but a definition with no intention to 'act' the meaning.



Organizing a meeting, conference, workshop or seminar without including the youth is like planting rice in the desert. The definition of "Youth" largely depends on which forum one is attending. If participating in a high level or 'low' level, for lack of a better word, policy forum, the event coordinator will always refer to the youth as a **"Ticking Time Bomb"** about to explode. If attending a politically charged forum, both the aspiring and prevailing leaders will define the youth as **"the leaders of tomorrow"**. I wouldn't object to any of these definitions, but hey, the bomb has gone off and of course tomorrow will be here with us!



Two thirds of the entire Kenya's population relies on Agriculture for livelihoods, thanks to the fertile land and climate which is now threatened by climate change and rural urban migration. According to latest statistics, [the average age of a Kenyan farmer is 60 years old](#). On the other hand, 75% of Kenya's population comprises young people of below 35 years of age. 30% out of the young people population are between the ages of 15 – 35 years. Out of the 69% unemployed Kenyan population, 12% are young people of employable age.

As a country grappling with food insecurity and aging agricultural population, ideas of making agriculture 'youth friendly' are still the way to provide informal employment to young people and consequently solve food insecurity.

From top photo @ Emmanuel Ngore UNV at UNEP gives his speech ,second picture photo@S students benefiting from agricultural training and photo below ,Emmanuel and team pose for a group photo

Volunteering for Justice and human rights

Photo @ Faith having
a talk with students



“The fear of the high number of cases slowly faded away when I realized that each of those cases represented individuals whose rights were violated and I had the privilege of being a part of the process of assisting them obtain justice.”

Civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights protected in the Constitution

- ⇒ *Right to life*
- ⇒ *Equality and freedom from discrimination*
- ⇒ *Human dignity*
- ⇒ *Freedom and security of the person*
- ⇒ *Slavery, servitude and forced labour (protection against)*
- ⇒ *Privacy*
- ⇒ *Freedom of conscience, religion, belief and opinion*
- ⇒ *Freedom of expression*
- ⇒ *Freedom of the media*
- ⇒ *Access to information*
- ⇒ *Freedom of association.*
- ⇒ *Assembly, demonstration, picketing and petition*
- ⇒ *Political rights*
- ⇒ *Freedom of movement and residence*
- ⇒ *Protection of right to property*
- ⇒ *Labour relations*
- ⇒ *Environment*
- ⇒ *Economic and social rights*
- ⇒ *Language and culture*
- ⇒ *Family*
- ⇒ *Consumer rights*
- ⇒ *Fair administrative action*
- ⇒ *Access to justice*
- ⇒ *Rights of arrested persons*
- ⇒ *Fair hearing*
- ⇒ *Rights of persons detained, held in custody or imprisoned*

The Kenyan Constitution of 2010 is one of the most progressive constitutions in the world as it includes provisions for the promotion, protection and realization of human rights detailed in the Bill of Rights (Chapter 4).

In 2011 three Constitutional Commissions were created with the mandate to operationalise and monitor the implementation of the Bill of Rights;

1. The Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR).
2. The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC),
3. The Commission on Administrative Justice (CAJ) also known as *the Ombudsman*.

Since 2012, the UNDP Kenya Country Office has been working with the three Commissions through an integrated programme to strengthen human rights and access to justice in Kenya.

The programme is supported by the Governments of Finland and Sweden through which national UNVs serving at the KNCHR and the CAJ have played a key part in the programme helping to strengthen the Commissions to implement their respective mandates.

Faith Oloo, a national UNV, has been working as Legal Officer for the CAJ since Sept 2013 .The CAJ focuses on addressing all forms of maladministration.

The Constitution states that *'Every person has the right to administrative action that is expeditious, efficient, lawful, reasonable and procedurally fair'*, sometimes however, citizens' experiences with public offices is contrary to this which leads to violations of their rights.

Faith is part of the CAJ's legal team that receives and helps to resolve complaints from citizens regarding maladministration by public offices. In the last year she has worked on 650 cases.

An example of a case she has worked on is the case of Juma (name changed) who was employed as a driver at an agency of the Government of Kenya. Four years after carrying out a special assignment for them, Juma was yet to receive an allowance of Kes 45,000 that he was entitled to. After many unsuccessful follow-ups, Juma eventually contacted CAJ requesting for assistance. CAJ made a formal inquiry to the relevant office, stating what Juma alleged and offering the relevant office the opportunity to give their version of facts. The agency conceded that they had failed to pay Juma his dues and they eventually committed to paying the amount owed on or before 31st August 2014. Needless to say, Juma is happy that he fi-

nally receives his dues. In addition to that, Juma has the confidence that there is an office that can speak on his behalf.

Working for CAJ has been an important experience says Faith. *"I am grateful that I had the opportunity to volunteer one year to the worthwhile cause of seeking justice for the "mnyonge" (less privileged) in our society. During this one year, my passion to use my legal knowledge and skills to help seek justice for others in society has been greatly kindled ."*

Another UNV placed with one of the Commissions as part of the human rights project is Vivian Mwendu. She was a national UNV with KNCHR for a period of two years. In this time she was attached to the KNCHR's Public Education and Training department, touring the country providing education to citizens on human rights as well as training various institutions on the Human Rights Based Approach to Development (HRBA). After completing her UNV assignment with the KNCHR, she moved on to work for another constitutional commission as a Legal Officer.

Working in the frontline of human rights promotion, protection and realization is challenging, but rewarding. Faith and Vivian are examples of everyday human rights champions whose work has contributed to the KNCHR and CAJ delivering on their mandates and protecting the rights of every Kenyan.

In the near future five new UNVs will be hired to work both for CAJ and KNCHR. UNDP is grateful for the UNV office for their continued support in the protection of the rights of citizens.

Volunteer Voices

Serving over four years as a UN Volunteer has been one of the most humbling experience for Dr. Solomon Wanguru who has been a UNV Peace monitor in Nakuru county for four years

and initially a neighborhood volunteer. " Let me tell you , young people ought to know that the world needs their energy, time, skills ,education and creativity

for its development. After studying and serving the government for thirty years I had never been relieved until I served as a volunteer in my community" -Dr. Solomon Wanguru



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Ahead of the First ever UNV Regional retreat in Kenya



The first ever Regional Retreat to bring together UNVs from Uganda, Kenya and Somalia is planned to take place in Kenya at the Maanzoni Lodge in Machakos county. The retreat is confirmed to take place from Fifth to 8th November 2014.

The retreat is expected to bring together almost 200 participants for three days where they will be learning and sharing experiences or stories from their countries or offices. The

UNV Field Unit in Kenya has taken lead to initiate the team association which includes representation from Somalia and Uganda.

Ahead of the retreat there have been two skype meetings via the UNDP/UNV Information and Communication Centre in Kenya. The meetings have gone a long way to inform and update the field units on progress as well as to go ahead to put clear the plans of the retreat.



Above top photo @UNV PO's Somalia on the left and Kenya on right after a skype session with UNV PO Uganda on screen. Below Mr. Dmitry and Vidal follow the skype session at the UNDP/UNV Information and Communications Centre.

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For more information on this Newsletter, the UNV programme or to submit your volunteering, stories contact the UNV Communications Officer in Kenya [Kelvin Keya on kelvin.keya@undp.org](mailto:kelvin.keya@undp.org) or unv.ke@undp.org .

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